

AETC News Clips



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19 Sep 01



EDWARD A. ORNELAS/STAFF

Members of the National Guard make their way Tuesday to the site of the World Trade Center attack in New York. The Pentagon is preparing to call up members of the National Guard and Reserve to help with recovery efforts and to bolster the nation's defense.

Reprisal won't be easy



Express News

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Reprisal won't be easy

Defense chief discusses the difficulties U.S. military faces

BY ROBERT BURNS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stated in stark terms Tuesday the difficulties the American military will face in trying to root out terrorists and their support networks.

"It will not be quick, and it will not be easy," he said. "Our adversaries are not one or two terrorist leaders, even a single terrorist organization or network. It's a broad network of individuals and organizations that are determined to terrorize."

As the Pentagon prepared to call up members of the National Guard and Reserve to help with recovery efforts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and to bolster the nation's defense, Rumsfeld said he doesn't plan to put more than 35,500 citizen soldiers on active duty.

President Bush last week signed an order authorizing a call-up of as many as 50,000 reservists. As of Tuesday, none

had been called up, although many units have been told to prepare to be activated.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Plewes, chief of the Army Reserve, said that if President Bush orders a military offensive against terrorist networks and their supporters, the Army probably would have to activate more than the 10,000 National Guard and Reserve members currently scheduled for call-up.

"Quite clearly, 10,000 (reservists) in a large-scale anti-terrorism campaign would be exhausted," he said.

Plewes noted that if sustained military operations are focused on Afghanistan, for example, the Army Reserve's 377th Support Command, based at New Orleans, probably would be called to active duty.

Plewes also said commanders at numerous bases around the United States have requested help in beefing up base security and building barriers, fences and other defensive structures, in light of the heightened alert against terrorist attack.

He didn't say which bases had made such requests.

Speaking at a Pentagon news conference, Rumsfeld made clear he believes the enormity of last Tuesday's attacks leaves the U.S. government little choice but to launch a large-scale military offensive.

"The best defense against terrorists is an offense," he said. "You simply cannot batten down the hatches and try to cope with every conceivable thing any terrorist could imagine to do. I mean, they've already done some unimaginable things."

He was asked how the United States could carry out a successful military campaign in Afghanistan, a mountainous southern Asian country whose Taliban rulers are said to be harboring terror plot suspect Osama bin Laden.

"Several countries have exhausted themselves pounding that country," he said, referring to Britain, which attempted to conquer Afghanistan in the 19th century, and the former Soviet Union, whose

brutal 1979-89 war there against Islamic rebels helped bring about the superpower's collapse.

"What we'll have to do is exactly what I said: Use the full spectrum of our capabilities."

Rumsfeld's remarks seemed to suggest a U.S. offensive is unlikely in the next few days.

"This is a very new type of conflict, or battle or campaign or war or effort, for the United States," he said. "As a result, we are moving in a measured manner as we gather information."

He said the U.S. response would be aimed at more than just bin Laden and his terror network, known as al-Qaida.

"We're talking about a very broadly based campaign to go after the terrorist problem where it exists, and it exists in countries across the globe," Rumsfeld said. "As I've indicated, this one network, al-Qaida, that's receiving so much discussion and publicity may have activities in 50 to 60 countries, including the United States."

Councilman Martin getting ready to go

BY SHERRY SYLVESTER
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Councilman Enrique Martin is among the 50,000 military reservists who have been called to active duty, and City Attorney Frank Garza said Tuesday he is searching the City Charter for guidance in case Martin is deployed.

The South Side councilman is a master sergeant in charge of the 433rd Medical Squadron based at Randolph AFB. He said he doesn't know when his unit will leave, but he's getting ready.



MARTIN

"When the call comes, you need to be ready to move in 24 to 48 hours," Martin said.

He also was called up during the Persian Gulf War, before he was elected to the City Council. His unit spent several months in a triage unit outside London where patients were stabilized before they returned to the United States.

Garza said the City Charter requires that positions be held

open for city employees who are called up, but there are no guidelines for elected officials.

"The only way they can be forced to forfeit their office is if they move out of the district or commit a felony," Garza said.

He added that there appears to be no precedent to cover an elected official who is called to active military duty.

Reservists who are called up officially are on active duty for two years, although they may not be required to serve that long.

Martin has been in the Reserve 18 years and says he loves

his work.

"It has been nothing but a good experience serving my country," he said.

According to Garza, the City Charter authorizes the City Council to compel the attendance of one of its members, but Councilman Bobby Perez said Tuesday he expects Martin ultimately will decide what steps are appropriate.

"I know he believes that the most important issue is that the citizens in District 4 be represented," Perez said.

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Corte says he's being called

By BOB RICHTER

Express-News Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — State Rep. Frank Corte Jr. confirmed Tuesday he is among the military reservists being called to active duty as a result of the terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Corte, a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve, said he will be called "before the end of the week."

His destination will remain unknown until he receives airline tickets and travel orders, Corte said, but his unit, which is headquartered at Camp Smith, Hawaii, will report to MacDill AFB in Florida, a staging ground for operations in the Middle East.

Corte, a five-term Republican lawmaker who represents Northwest Bexar County, also was called to active duty during Operation Desert Storm, but was not deployed overseas.



CORTE

"I have been ordered to prepare to deploy. We are prepared to be in combat," he said.

Corte, a Marine Reservist for 20 years, said his military occupation is "individual mobilization augmentee," Marine lingo for planner. He said he is trained to deal with "asymmetrical," or unusual, operations.

Corte, 42, and his wife, Valerie, have three children, ages 10, 8 and 5.

"The separation from my family will be a sacrifice, but I am honored to be able to serve," he said, noting the deployment could be for as little as 30 days or as long as two years.

"If (Osama) bin Laden is found and handed over in the next few days, there might be no deployment," Corte said of the suspected leader of the attacks on the United States.

Corte said he is planning to seek re-election next year and has scheduled fund-raisers next week and in December.

"I'll have to miss that now," he said of a fete scheduled for Sept. 27, which, he said, will be held without him.

"Life goes on. The state's business goes on," Corte said. "I am capable of doing that (legislative business) even at a distance" with cell phones and laptop computers.

In July, Corte testified by video phone to the Legislative Redistricting Board in Austin while he was on duty at the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

He's now enrolled in a War College correspondence course, and has said his goal is to be promoted to general.

Corte said one of his first thoughts after the initial shock and outrage he felt from watching coverage of the attacks on U.S. soil last week was that he might be called to active duty.

"This is something I've been preparing myself for mentally," Corte said, adding: "I have faith in our leaders at the national level."

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Do you need a new career?

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Express-News: America in Agony

Local doctor may have provided funds

By Lisa Sandberg

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 09/19/2001 12:00 AM

The San Antonio doctor being held as a material witness in connection with the investigation into last week's terror attacks is believed to have provided money and other resources to the hijackers, law enforcement sources said Tuesday.

"He was kind of a support guy," an investigator familiar with the federal probe said.

Dr. Al-Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi, a 34-year-old San Antonio radiologist and Saudi national, is one of four people arrested as material witnesses in the attacks that left thousands feared dead.

Attorney General John Ashcroft said Tuesday that 75 individuals who are being detained by the Immigration and Naturalization Service on immigration violations also may have information related to the hijacking probe.



Dr. Al-Badr M.H. Al-Hazmi, 34, is being questioned in New York.
Courtesy photo

Ashcroft also said federal authorities have forwarded 190 names to national, state and local law enforcement agencies as well as the airlines.

Al-Hazmi, who was nearing the end of a four-year medical training program at the University of Texas Health Science Center, has been implicated in the attacks by two men detained last week in Fort Worth on a San Antonio-bound Amtrak train, the investigator said.

"The way they got the doctor is the other two started talking," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

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The two men, Ayub Ali Khan, 51, and Mohammed Jaweed Azmath, 47, are believed to be citizens of India who are in the United States illegally. The men were reportedly enroute to see Al-Hazmi when they were detained, the source said.

When the four planes were hijacked Sept. 11, Khan and Azmath were aboard a jet out of Newark International Airport bound for San Antonio. That flight was grounded in St. Louis after air traffic was halted because of the hijackings.

After boarding an Amtrak train to San Antonio, the men apparently drew attention to themselves by arguing and were detained by Drug Enforcement Agents in Fort Worth who were conducting a narcotics sweep. They were carrying box cutters, hair dye and thousands of dollars in cash, but no drugs, when they were detained, authorities said.

Since last week, Al-Hazmi's name had been on a "watch list" of people suspected of associating with at least one of the 19 suicide hijackers, the investigator said. It's unclear exactly when Al-Hazmi was detained, or where he was found.

Al-Hazmi's name was also on a list of eight suspects that was distributed to Mexican authorities.

Late Tuesday, the Knight Ridder reported that investigators are keenly interested in Al-Hazmi's travel plans with four other men, who still are at large. The five men reportedly bought tickets for Saturday on United Airlines Flight 1429 from San Antonio to Denver and Flight 1185 from Denver to San Diego.

Investigators say they are concerned about the possibility that attacks are or were planned for this weekend, particularly Saturday, although they emphasized they have no specific information.

"Yes, we have heard something about Sept. 22, but nothing specific," one source close told Knight Ridder. "We have information that leads us to believe that there could be more attacks very soon. The same murky sources that indicated something might be coming in the weeks before the attacks have indicated something may be happening this weekend.

Publicly, other U.S. officials, including Ashcroft, have said investigators

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Feds eye jet bound for S.A.

BY DAVID JOHNSTON
AND JAMES RISEN
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities said Tuesday they were investigating the possibility that terrorists may have plotted to commandeer two additional commercial flights, including one bound for San Antonio, on the day four planes were hijacked and used in attacks on New York and the Pentagon.

Law enforcement officials said they were taking the possibility of other hijack targets seriously, based on information from several sources, including tips from citizens and information from cooperating witnesses.

American Airlines Flight 1729, which was scheduled to leave Newark, N.J., at 7:50 a.m. CDT for San Antonio via Dallas, is one of the two other Sept. 11 flights under investigation. It was forced to stop in St. Louis when all flights were grounded after the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

The other flight under investigation is American Airlines Flight 43, which left Newark International Airport at about 7:10 a.m. CDT bound for Los Angeles. That plane landed in Cincinnati.

Attorney General John Ashcroft acknowledged authorities were investigating whether other aircraft besides the four that were hijacked and later crashed

might have been targeted. But he said investigators were unable to confirm it.

Tuesday, law enforcement officials said the evidence of a broader hijacking plot was suggested, but inconsistent.

In the case of Flight 1729, authorities have detained two men from the flight who were arrested aboard an Amtrak train in Fort Worth after their flight was forced to land in St. Louis.

The men, identified as Ayubali Ali Kahn and Mohammed Jaweed Azmath, were the only people aboard the flight who appeared to be suspicious, in contrast to other flights with hijack teams that numbered four or five men.

A senior FBI official said Tuesday that authorities also were examining hundreds of e-mail messages to and from the suspected hijackers and their known associates in their effort to determine the nature of the plot.

The messages were predominantly in English and Arabic, said the official, who would not describe the content, which was provided by large Internet service providers like America Online and Yahoo!

Members of the House and Senate intelligence committees also were told by White House officials in a classified briefing that there is reason to believe further terrorist acts are being planned, a congressional source said.

Authorities said their evidence indicates that Sept. 22 was an important date, but they would not elaborate.

Earlier this week, Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said terrorists could try to contaminate water supplies or destroy bridges.

Last week's attacks were "part of a larger plan with other terrorism acts, not necessarily hijacking of airplanes," he said.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department has drafted legislation allowing the attorney general to lock up immigrants deemed to be terror suspects and order them deported without presenting any evidence.

According to the draft, the only chance for an appeal would occur when a suspect was facing removal from the country. This has prompted alarm among immigration advocates and civil libertarians.

Immigration advocates said



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they feared the government was responding to a national tragedy by infringing on constitutional rights.

Some said they were troubled by the large number of detentions — 75 people in connection with the investigation on suspected immigration violations, along with a San Antonio doctor and five others being held as material witnesses — combined with the proposed legislation.

According to the draft, provided by the advocates, the director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service could recommend to the attorney general that an immigrant be "certified" as someone who might facilitate acts of terrorism.

The person could then be detained indefinitely and deported.

The measure, which could go to Congress as early as today, would apply both to visitors and to permanent legal residents holding so-called green cards.

Ashcroft also said he has revised internal rules allowing the U.S. Immigration and Naturali-

zation Service to detain suspected undocumented immigrants for 48 hours, instead of one day, before deciding whether to charge them.

INS rules already allow any person who does not have legal permission to be in the United States to be detained for an unlimited time in "extraordinary circumstances," which Justice officials said would apply to the terrorism probe.

Ashcroft also announced that he has created an anti-terrorism task force with representatives from every U.S. attorney's office in the country.

Meanwhile, a U.S. government official said Tuesday that one of the key hijackers, Mohamed Atta, was seen meeting with an Iraqi intelligence official in Europe earlier this year — the first hint of possible Iraqi involvement in the plot.

The administration is not sure what significance to attach to the meeting between Atta — the 33-year-old who's believed to have piloted American Airlines

Flight 11 into the World Trade Center — and an Iraqi intelligence officer, a government official said.

Former CIA Director James Woolsey said there's substantial evidence suggesting Ramzi Yousef, the convicted mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and a foiled plot to blow up a dozen U.S. jetliners over the Pacific, was an Iraqi agent, not merely a Pakistani student.

If that is the case, Woolsey said, last week's attacks could have been a continuation of Yousef's earlier assaults sponsored by Iraq.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said one or more nations provided support for last week's attacks, but he declined to specify the evidence for that conclusion.

"I know a lot, and what I have said as clearly as I know how is that states are supporting these people," he said.

Senior Bush administration officials repeatedly have said the

prime suspect behind the attacks is exiled Saudi militant Osama bin Laden, who has been given refuge by Afghanistan's ruling Taliban.

Among Tuesday's other developments:

- Authorities filed the first criminal charges in the investigation Tuesday after finding three men in a house with false immigration papers and airport diagrams.

The arrests in Michigan occurred when FBI agents raided a residence in Detroit looking for one of more than 190 people the bureau wants to question.

Instead, they found the three men and a cache of documents. The three were charged with having false immigration papers. ■ A federal grand jury has been convened in White Plains, N.Y., to hear evidence in the investigation, sources said.

■ New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said the chances of finding anyone alive in the thousands of tons of rubble is "very, very small."

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Feed . . . cont'd

■ Law enforcement officials acknowledged that the FBI's efforts to conduct electronic surveillance of foreign terrorists in the United States had been troubled in recent months, spawning an internal inquiry into possible abuses.

Justice Department and FBI officials, who acknowledged the existence of the internal investigation, said the inquiry had forced officials to examine their monitoring of several suspected terrorist groups, among them *al-Qaeda*, the network led by bin Laden, and Hamas, the militant Palestinian group.

■ An early rally on Wall Street fizzled by late afternoon, leaving the markets down slightly after Monday's sharp sell-off.

■ Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta said the administration will unveil an aid package for the financially shattered airline industry next week, but it was not clear whether President Bush will support the full \$24 billion that airline executives are seeking.

■ The FBI has begun scrutinizing passenger lists of flights leaving Logan International Airport on Sept. 11, following reports that a terrorist suspect was on a plane that was sent back to the gate after flights were grounded in the wake of the World Trade Center attacks.

■ After leading a minute of silence at the White House, Bush said: "I herald the soul and spirit of America. We'll fight terrorism on all fronts. We will not be terrorized so that our hearts are hardened."

■ White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Bush regrets having used the word "crusade" Sunday to describe the effort against terrorism, a reference that outraged many Arab and Muslim people.

■ China, one of five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, said it will need to see "irrefutable evidence" that areas targeted for bombing have a link to the terrorist attack and that it will insist on discussing anti-terrorism efforts under the aegis of the Security Council.

China also hopes that in exchange for its support, the United States will back off from its arms sales to Taiwan, its support for Tibet's Dalai Lama and its criticism of China's suppression of dissidents in the northwestern province of Xinjiang.

The Boston Globe, Washington Post and Associated Press contributed to this report.



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RYAN REMIOW/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers at the site of the World Trade Center terror attack pass a container for aircraft parts Tuesday. The poster at right shows searchers what flight recorders would look like. None of the recorders from the two planes that hit the towers has been reported recovered.

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Effort under way to stress likely cost of war

By NANCY BENAC
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Early in the buildup to the Persian Gulf War, the first President Bush speculated to military aides that with brute air power, "We can knock 'em out in 24 hours."

The new Bush administration is trying to brace Americans for war with a different type of foe and greater loss of life.

"Antiseptic warfare," said defense chief Donald Rumsfeld, "will not work with this enemy."

That was on Sunday.

"There will be costs," said Bush. That was on Monday.

"This is not a risk-free operation," said Gen. Joseph Ralston, commander of NATO forces. That was on Tuesday.

For a quarter-century, Ameri-

cans largely have been spared such costs.

The Gulf War wasn't nearly as tidy as the first Bush initially hoped — 500,000 American troops were deployed and 148 lost their lives — but there was no massive loss of life.

Likewise, other recent U.S. military actions cost relatively few lives. There were no U.S. combat losses during the military intervention in Kosovo in 1999 nor in the Bosnian air strikes in 1995. There were 29 combat deaths in Somalia during the U.S. operation to restore political stability and fight famine nearly a decade ago.

But the tools of warfare used so effectively in many recent military operations — cruise missiles flying off in the night, planes delivering "smart"

bombs from 20,000 feet — won't provide an easy answer this time, Rumsfeld warns.

"What this war is about is our way of life," he says, "and our way of life is worth losing lives for."

Secretary of State Colin Powell, who recounted the first President Bush's hopes for a quick end to the Gulf War in his autobiography, now warns the fight against the terrorists won't be solved "in one day or one week but it'll be a long-term campaign."

Helmut Sonnenfeldt, a defense analyst at the Brookings Institution, said the administration's efforts to prepare Americans for greater casualties are part of a broader effort "to be credible in terms of their threats to do something concrete."

The message is designed for an audience that extends well beyond U.S. borders.

"It's part of a general approach of preparing both the American public and the Congress as well as various targeted groups abroad for the determination of the administration to do something in response to what happened and maybe to go beyond something that is merely punitive to trying to unravel the terrorist networks," he said.

For now, at least, a good share of the American people say they are ready to pay the price.

About nine in 10 in recent polls say they favor a military response, although the support level drops when people are asked about an operation that results in a large number of U.S.

troops killed or injured.

In a CNN-USA Today Gallup poll, for example, 88 percent said the United States should take military action in retaliation for the terrorist attacks. But the support dropped to 65 percent for a military operation that cost 1,000 American troops.

Over recent decades, "the consistent story is that when the stakes are low and the mission is not promising, people are not all that tolerant of casualties," said Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at Brookings. "But when there's a sense of professionalism and care in the way the mission is conducted, the promise of victory and important stakes involved, you have a considerable willingness on the part of the American people to do what it takes to win."



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Flagged for success

San Antonians join to form a human Stars and Stripes.

BY DARYL BELL
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

They came in different ways — by bus, by car, by van, on foot — to a place “dedicated to the use of a free and happy people.”

But as the sun began to rise over the slogan that greets visitors to Alamo Stadium, it became apparent that not enough San Antonians had made the early-morning pilgrimage to form a human U.S. flag.

According to Tim Kiesling, director of marketing for Clear Channel Radio and one of the organizers of the event, 3,820 people were needed to make a perfect human American flag. By his estimation, the project was 2,820 people shy.

With time running out to get an aerial picture from a helicopter for a television broadcast, Kiesling and Mix 96.1 FM personality Dean Novak, who thought of the flag idea, needed help. They got it from a participant, Mildred West, an assistant superintendent for special projects for the San Antonio School District.

With the diligence of a drill sergeant, West told the crowd to assemble “between the two 10-yard lines.” And within a few moments, San Antonio had its human American flag. It wasn’t as big as anticipated, but it was a flag.

“Everyone came out here looking to make a flag and I know they didn’t want to be disappointed,” West said. “I

just figured that since we didn’t have enough people to make a large flag, we did have enough people to make a smaller one.”

Which pleased Novak, half of the “Deb and Dean Morning Show.”

“The spirit here was great,” Novak said. “We did this totally at the last minute. I think we would’ve had more people if we had enough time but we wanted to do it to coincide with the events of last Tuesday.”

At 7:45 a.m., a moment of silence was observed for the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and the crashing of an airliner in Pennsylvania. Tuesday was the one-week anniversary of the attacks. “We’re all saddened but this (human flag) is good for morale and it’s the right thing to do,”

*“We’re all
saddened
but this
(human
flag) is
good for
morale and
it’s the
right thing
to do.”*

DANIEL WHITE
participant

said Daniel White, who came to the event along with several of his Brackenridge Zoo co-workers. “Our supervisors gave us permission to participate and that’s fine with me. I want to be a part of something good.”

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FOCUS: TERROR HITS HOME

A changed country

What Americans have faced this past week is nothing like we've ever faced before. But the resolve and the strength of Americans are evident.

Those who've lost their lives in this terrible attack and their families and friends have paid a heavy price. But the lesson of unity, compassion, patriotism and the return to open display of Christianity is priceless.

Our country is changed. Our hearts have returned to God.

— Laura Dzuris

'Payback' tarnishes grief

I am distressed by the reports of attacks on local businesses, mosques and individuals.

These attacks are not in any way, "payback" for the terrorist attacks inflicted on our nation. They are terrorist attacks. They are smaller in scale, but no less reprehensible than the events of Sept. 11.

People who have chosen, in their anger, to attack members of our community based on nationality or faith do nothing to help our community or our country. I imagine this behavior is exactly what the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 attacks want.

Shame on you. You diminish our just anger and tarnish our grief.

— Joyce K. Hassell

U.S., listen to Roddy

I have been a vocal critic of Roddy Stinson's denigrating columns, but I have to say that his Saturday column was right on ("I'd put Colin Powell in front of the TV cameras every day"). He has hit the nail on the head.

We have been too lax, too soft and too undetermined in protecting the safety of this country, and the government would do well to pay attention to Roddy's perceptive suggestions.

— Judith Rochelle



STINSON



AMY SANCETTA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Like this parishioner in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, Americans found solace in God, a grateful San Antonian says.

Stinson the expert?

Re: Roddy Stinson's Saturday column, "I'd put Colin Powell in front of the TV cameras every day":

Gee whiz, Mr. Stinson, I guess you should be president! You seem to have all the answers. It must be nice standing in your shoes, so certain you know better than the leaders of the current and previous administrations with regard to terrorism. And airline safety. And national security.

By any chance, did any of your grand ideas occur to you *before* Sept. 11?

Since this attack, many people have taken to finger-pointing and laying blame within the borders of America — from President Bush and past administrations to intelligence officials, the Federal Aviation Administration and airline industry.

And while I agree things could have been done differently, no amount of hindsight pontification will bring back the 5,000 Americans we have lost.

The final blame lies not with past misjudgments, but with the terrorists who hijacked those planes and crashed them into the World Trade Center and

No attacks in Russia

Some say the attacks last week are just retribution for American sins and that it is understandable that so many in the Middle East hate us. These people seem to be saying our sins justify such hatred and violence.

This argument is hypocritical. Why wasn't the former Soviet Union the victim of terrorist attacks?

When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, I don't recall any terrorist attacks. Nor do I remember any hostages being taken at Soviet embassies when Americans were held in Tehran.

The Soviet Union limited religious freedom. Wasn't that offensive to extremists? No one called the Soviet Union "The Great Satan."

I am not suggesting that the Soviet Union should have been the target of terrorism. I am simply pointing out hypocrisy.

— Cyril Morong

Pentagon.

And those are the people who deserve the finger-pointing, along with the harshest punishments we can thrust upon them.

— Miriam De La Cruz



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NFL lets down fan

This is to the NFL Players Association:

You greatly disappointed me, and that takes a whole lot. I have stood beside you, always backing the players in every conflict. I have been a fan for more than 30 years.

As was always the cry, nothing stops football. Nothing. Football is the one constant in a life filled with little one can depend upon.

The events of the past week are tragic beyond imagination. Did I want to leave work and go home to mourn? You're damn right I did. Why did I stay? Because that was the right thing to do. My work, my life is what the terrorists wanted to disrupt. I would not allow that. While I mourned our loss, I did my job.

I am disappointed that when watching my favorite sport would have temporarily relieved my mind from the tragedy, you decided not to go to work. You allowed the terrorists a small victory. When millions of Americans needed something to relieve the pain, the game that nothing stops stopped. It is both a shame and an embarrassment. The cowards did their job.

You guys let us down when we needed you most. More than any sport, even baseball, you represent America. I'm just glad the America you represent did not behave as you did. We did our jobs and kept this great country running.

— Dave Schardan

Thanks to 'play soldiers'

Re: the Thursday article "Gridlock hits Lackland AFB":

I am appalled that Lackland City Elementary Principal Jerry Allen would say, "We've had a few dignitaries here where they play soldier, but today they weren't playing."

During the past few years, thank God, America has "been playing soldier" because this is how we learn to defend ourselves. In addition, many troops have been deployed overseas, where they are *not* playing war but defending democracy.

I resent the tone of Mr. Allen and deeply regret the Express-News felt his remark needed to be printed.

God bless all of us and pray for all those soldiers and civil servants working to overcome this horrendous attack.

— Iris W. Seals

Stalled but not hungry

After last week's attack, it took me six hours and 15 minutes to get to work although I live about four miles from Lackland AFB.

I would like to think the businesses on Military Drive. Around lunchtime, they rolled their carts down the street between the cars, selling food and drinks. Bill Miller's employees were giving away iced tea, water and brownies. They deserve a pat on the back. It was most appreciated.

— Gwen Morgan

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Display real flags

I thoroughly agree with letter writer Eva Duken ("Let the flags fly," Sept. 12).

I cannot understand why people who put flags out for holidays have not put them out to show support for this great nation in this time of need.

I am deeply saddened that when I drive through my neighborhood, I see those meaningless decorative flags hanging on houses but not the American flag. Please display our flag at this time of sorrow.

— Teresa Labo

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Defense chief's word to veterans

BY DONALD H. RUMSFELD

COMMENT

Editor's Note: One of our readers shared an e-mail message that the secretary of defense sent to members of the military. Here is that message.

As the men and women who have fought America's wars,



you — more than all others — understand what the Sept. 11 attack on freedom and democracy means for the days ahead.

RUMSFELD More than simple acts of terrorism by radical or unbalanced individuals, this was an attack on our way of life, our country, our home.

In a recent message to U.S. armed forces here and abroad, I spoke of the memorable moments that have marked all great crises throughout our history, images that live forever in our hearts and in our minds.

Not surprisingly, we've seen many such moments during this crisis as well — moments of remarkable courage and selflessness; moments of fierce patriotism and pride.

Policemen and firefighters working night and day, with no thought for themselves; men, women and children giving blood until the banks are overflowing; businesses and corporations donating coffee, food and water to sustain those who would not stop working; chaplains counseling distraught families; friends and total strangers reaching out in loving gestures of human support.

And everywhere — the American flag, on buses and taxicabs, in windows and over doorways, as armbands, on jackets and hats, and most especially, wav-

ing in glorious defiance above the smoking and twisted wreckage our enemies have wrought. One such flag, unfurled by firefighters, proudly hangs huge and proud near the gash in the Pentagon wall.

But I also warned that more — much more — will be asked of Americans in the weeks and months ahead.

We face well-organized and sophisticated enemies, made all the more powerful by the terror they are so willing to unleash. Now that terror has been brought to our door, we owe it to ourselves and — as the president has said — to all future generations, to stop it, eliminate it and destroy it at its core.

Today, all Americans are united in anguish and anger. But we must also be united in purpose and in will.

While the immediate task of vanquishing freedom's enemies will fall to our military men and women, all of us — particularly those like you who understand the price of freedom — will be called upon to strengthen our national resolve.

And so, as we ask God's tender mercies on all those who have fallen, we ask also for His guidance and protection for all of us who remain to finish the task now before us.

I thank the same God for America's veterans — those of you who made us free and kept us free. I thank God for all you have done, and for all I know you will do again, to support peace and final victory.

God bless you, and God bless America.

Donald H. Rumsfeld is the secretary of defense.

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OUR TURN

Bush should speak with much thought

While it is impossible to imagine the pressure that President Bush faces every time he speaks, the critical importance of measuring every utterance has become painfully clear:

When he called for a "crusade," surely he did not realize that he brought forth an image for Christians, and particularly for Muslims, of one of the darkest periods of the Middle Ages.

He did not mean to summon the imagery of a "holy war." But that is exactly what he did.

Likewise, when he evoked the frontier image of "Wanted dead or alive," he did not think of the effect this could have on the stock market.

The president did an excellent job last weekend making clear that the United States would respond with resolve.

A weekend national poll showed that 81 percent of the American people think that this nation should take action only when we are clear about who our enemies are. We are prepared to be patient.

Now that the president has rallied support, he must cool the inflammatory words. Every time he ratchets up the rhetoric, he increases the probability of a costly misstep.

Unwise words only increase the kind of hateful actions that we are beginning to see across the nation toward fellow citizens of Middle Eastern and South Asian back-

Now that the president has rallied national support, he must cool the inflammatory words.

grounds.

That simply feeds into the discord the terrorists mean to sow, and it must stop.

As civilian and military leaders map their strategy, they must make sure their actions in fighting this unconventional war do not sow the seeds for the next one.

For example, Americans should remember that the Taliban, whose power this nation helped create to defeat the former Soviet Union, does not represent average Afghanistan people.

That nation is not a democracy, and many of its people, especially women, suffer mightily under Taliban rule.

In fact, many are trying to flee their nation, only to find its borders closed.

Many of those people are not our enemy. The suffering we inflict on them will breed new hatreds.

The world is much more complex than we often want to see.

But our leaders, especially President Bush, must see clearly and speak moderately to navigate the rough times ahead.



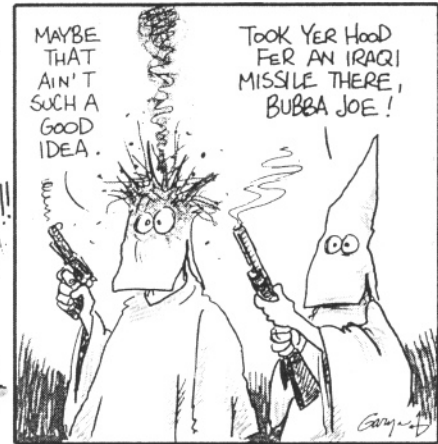
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Nacho Guarache

by Leo Garza



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Boeing plans to cut up to 30,000 jobs

San Antonio military contracts won't be affected.

BY ALLISON LINN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Boeing Co. plans to lay off as many as 30,000 commercial airplane workers by the end of next year as a result of an expected slowdown in orders caused by last week's terrorist attacks, the company said late Tuesday.

"We profoundly regret that these actions will impact the lives of so many of our highly valued employees," said Alan Mulally, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, in a statement.

"However, it is critical that we take these necessary steps now to size the commercial airplanes business to support the difficult and uncertain environment faced by our airline customers," he said.

Roughly 93,000 people work for Boeing's commercial airline sector, much of which is centered around the company's former headquarters in Seattle.

Boeing employs about 2,000 workers at KellyUSA in its military division and said this summer it plans to add about 300 jobs in San Antonio for a C-130 contract that begins in 2004. The layoffs discussed Tuesday night are in the commercial airplane division.

"We're all very distressed by it," Washington Gov. Gary Locke said. "The repercussions of last week's terrorist activities are having far-reaching impacts, first to all the national airlines. They're laying off people, and they're not even sure

"I believe this has got to be a worst-case scenario."

CHARLES BOFFERDING
executive director of Boeing's
white collar engineering union

they can take delivery of Boeing airplanes."

Locke said news of the Boeing layoffs illustrates how quickly the federal government must move to help the airline industry.

The White House and Congress are considering a federal aid package for the airline industry to help them recover from last week's attacks.

The industry has asked for \$24 billion. The House floated a \$15 billion relief plan last Friday that could include \$2.5 billion in immediate grants and \$12.5 billion in loans and credits.

Though the White House and congressional leaders suggested a multibillion-dollar package was on the way, they weren't offering a final dollar figure or timetable for debate.

The Bush administration could propose an aid package next week, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta said. The House may move forward this week, when it returns from a recess for the Jewish New Year holiday.

Boeing's stock has plunged since markets reopened this week. On Monday, the first regular day of trading the price fell \$7.66. The price was down \$2.66, to \$33.14, when trading closed Tuesday.

Major carriers had promised

layoffs of at least 26,000 people — a number that could grow to 100,000. Many, including American, Continental, Delta, Northwest and United, have also scaled back their schedules by about 20 percent.

With such declines, analysts have said layoffs at Boeing may be an inevitable side effect as orders for commercial aircraft are certainly expected to drop.

"It looks like there are more innocent victims of the terrorist bombing," said Charles Bofferd, executive director of SPEEA, Boeing's white collar engineering union.

But Bofferd said he was still holding out hope that the industry would recover somewhat and the actual layoffs would not be as drastic as indicated.

"I believe this has got to be a worst-case scenario," he said.

Mark Blondin, president of the Aerospace Machinists Industrial District Lodge 751, which represents many factory workers, called on Americans to get back on airplanes.

"Air travel is a way of life in this country, and citizens need to continue flying," he said in a statement. "It has probably never been safer to fly in the U.S."

Locke planned to meet with aerospace union leaders today to offer any assistance the state could provide to workers, said Locke's press secretary, Dana Middleton.

While workers at Boeing's plant in Renton said they had not heard about the layoffs, many said they expected them.

"I wasn't shocked or anything. It's kind of like the next step. This business is cyclical as it is, and we're on a downturn now," said engineer Joanne Rennie.

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Sheppard refutes training rumor

Monica Wolfson

Times Record News

Rumors swirling around Wichita Falls that an Egyptian terrorist, who participated in last week's hijackings in New York and Washington, had trained at Sheppard Air Force Base are false.

Further buzz that the Federal Aviation Administration or FBI had requested records from local flight training schools are also unfounded.

Rumors have run rampant since two hijacked commercial aircraft destroyed the World Trade Center in New York City and another commercial jetliner plowed into the Pentagon in Washington last week.

News agencies have reported speculation that up to three of the hijackers trained as pilots at U.S. Air Force bases.

Sheppard officials said

Monday they have never trained Egyptian pilots. Pilots from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Ecuador and El Salvador trained at Sheppard in November 1974.

"No one from Egypt, and that's all we've been able to discover," said Maj. John Skinner, Sheppard's chief of public affairs.

In the 82nd Training Wing, students from Middle Eastern countries are enrolled in technical and financial management training programs, Skinner said.

"They are taking various courses here through security assistance training programs," Skinner said. "That concerns the transfer in military and economic assistance to friendly countries. International student participation in military courses is not unique to Sheppard. It occurs at military installations

around the world."

This month there are 150 international pilots training at Sheppard from European nations.

An official with the U.S. Air Force Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base was more vague.

"I really can't answer your question," said Dave Smith, chief of media relations. He would not confirm or deny whether the Air Force is training Egyptian or Saudi Arabian pilots or has in the past.

Smith did say no Air Force personnel have contacted superiors claiming they trained with or knew the hijackers.

It also appears that despite rumors, FAA and FBI officials are not scouring records at local flight training schools.

Although officials with the FAA and FBI could not be reached for comment Monday, local flight schools said the federal agencies have not contacted them.

Officials with Sheppard Air, which is a flying club based at Municipal Airport, and Wichita Valley Airport said they haven't been asked to relinquish records.

Bob Parker, the city's director of aviation and transportation, said no federal authorities have contacted Kickapoo Downtown Airpark.

"We are kind of off the beaten path," Parker said. "The Dallas-Fort Worth area would be more likely. The bigger the school, the more diverse the pilots."

City hall reporter Monica Wolfson can be reached at (940) 763-7532 or (800) 627-1646, Ext. 532; or with e-mail wolfsonm@wtr.com.

Bomb scare at Plaza del Sol Mall

By: Chuck Dent

September 18, 2001

An alleged threat by a yet to be identified man sent units of the fire and police department scurrying to Plaza del Sol Mall just before sunset Monday evening. "We have a man threatening to blow himself up. Please move back," Lt. John Listner told about a half a dozen on lookers around 7:20 PM.

[Learn more here.](#)

Bomb scare at Plaza del Sol Mall
Continued from top...

A man in his late-twenties or early thirties was being detained by three members of the Del Rio Police Department at the K-Mart entrance. He was taken to a waiting police cruiser with one officer on each arm and Listner's hand at his throat. As they were talking him to the cruiser he was heard to say, "Yes sir" in response to a question by Listner.

A mall customer leaving by the main entrance said he and his wife had seen the man enter the mall and leave a couple of times. "He looked a little goofy," John Green said. Other eyewitness accounts describe a crazed man in his late 20s or early 30s, about 5' 10" in height pacing through the middle of the mall declaring, "We're going to war and we're going to bomb everyone." Another witness said that "in K-Mart, he re-enacted an entire war scene." A third witness said she became concerned when the man yelled, "I'm going to bomb this whole place." At that, she dialed 9-1-1. "These days,!! you don't know what to believe anymore," she said.

First indications something was afoot came when this reporter noticed a police officer standing near the theater with his hand gripping his holstered pistol. By 7:30 the first of six units of the Del Rio Fire Department including Fire Chief Harold Bean and Deputy Fire Chief John Sheedy began arriving on the scene.

The suspect had apparently been riding a bicycle which was laying near the K-Mart entrance on the mall's west side where he as taken into custody. A multi-pocketed tourist belt along with the bicycle and the bike's seat were laying on the sidewalk with some other items near the soft drink machines where the police had pinioned the suspect against the wall his hands held behind his back. He was also wearing a headset like those that are used with portable stereos.

As people came pouring out of the mall, police were telling them go to the far side of the parking lot.

As of about 7:40 police were still not answering questions but would only say they were waiting for units from Laughlin. "We are waiting for the (bomb sniffing) dogs from the base," Sgt. Steve Berg said.

Berg declined to answer questions other than to say, "He will be interrogated."

With all of the stores in the mall locked down authorities were refusing to let anyone enter the building and vehicles leaving the mall were being stopped and occupants identified before they were allowed to exit.

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LAUGHLIN AFB, TX

<http://www.delriolive.com/>

DAY: *Tues* DATE: *18 Sep 01*

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Military adds security after terrorist attacks; Naval ships sent to New York, Washington

By Larry Margasak
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Aircraft carriers and guided missile destroyers moved into the waters near New York and Washington after President Bush placed the U.S. military on its highest alert status in response to deadly terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

"We have been attacked like we haven't since Pearl Harbor," said Adm. Robert J. Natter, commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet in Norfolk, Va.

The ships Natter sent to stand off the East Coast included the carrier USS George Washington, which was in position off the coast of New York City Wednesday morning. Another carrier, the USS John F. Kennedy, was headed to New York, an Atlantic Fleet spokesman said. Each has a crew of 2,500 to 3,000 sailors, and the JFK's airwing has about 1,500 sailors.

The USNS Comfort, a hospital ship in Baltimore harbor, also was made available.

Also deployed were amphibious ships, guided

missile cruisers and guided missile destroyers that are capable of responding to threats from the air and sea. The amphibious ships were carrying Marines and sailors to provide security, surgical teams and limited hospital bed capacity.

The U.S. Pacific Fleet had a number of ships under way in the Pacific Ocean, a Navy official at Pearl Harbor said.

The USS John C. Stennis aircraft carrier was steaming off San Diego and two guided missile cruisers, three guided missile destroyers and five guided missile frigates were at sea in the eastern Pacific, he said.

The USS Russell guided missile destroyer, the Navy rescue ship USS Salvor and the Navy oiler USNS Yukon were off Hawaii.

Bush was in Florida at the time of the attacks Tuesday morning and was flown to Air Force bases in Louisiana and Nebraska before returning to Washington for an Oval Office address to the nation Tuesday evening.

Congressional leaders were taken to the safety of an undisclosed location outside Washington, and military aircraft were seen patrolling the skies above the capital.

Natter placed naval installations under his command on the highest security condition. He is in charge of 188 ships, 1,223 aircraft, 37 shore stations and more than 125,000 sailors and Marines and civilian employees. The Atlantic Fleet provides combat-ready forces to support American and NATO commanders around the world.

Elsewhere in the country, fighters, airborne radar and refueling planes were scrambled, according to an Air National Guard spokesman at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command also was on its highest alert status.

"We have all of our air sovereignty aircraft — fighters, surveillance and other support aircraft — ready to respond," NORAD said in a statement.

The U.S. portion of the St. Lawrence Seaway also was closed, said Lynn Duerod, spokeswoman for the Army Corps of Engineers in Detroit.

On the Net:

<http://www.atlanticfleet.navy.mil>

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CAFB on high alert

By Consweila Bennett
ccbennett@cdispatch.com

Columbus Air Force Base and other military installations around the state were placed on high alert in the wake of sudden, devastating terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., this morning.

There were reports National Guard units statewide were placed on alert.

Lt. Col. Tim Powell in the public affairs office at the Mississippi National Guard headquarters in Jackson said there is no deployment expected.

"We're looking to encourage our threat condition levels. We're still working the issue and are about to meet with the governor's office to discuss the issue," Powell said.

Gov. Ronnie Musgrove said this morning that state offices are remaining open while being vigilant for any terrorist attack.

"It is a national tragedy, so it affects all of us nationwide. It is prudent on our part to be prepared to

make sure that everyone in connection with emergency situations are prepared, and that's "what we're going to do today."

"Everything will continue in the normal course of business, but at the same time it is prudent for all of us to be prepared," he said.

Musgrove said state police officers have increased their presence at state government offices. He ordered state Army and Air National Guard facilities to increase their security measures and limit access to the facilities.

The Mississippi Capitol was open today with no visible special security measures in place. However, Musgrove, state Attorney General Mike Moore and legislators gathered but canceled a previously scheduled hearing on funding health-care programs.

"I think we all should be on guard in Mississippi. You don't know what's going to happen," Moore said.

Musgrove noted the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency has a disaster plan in place if needed.

The governor did not know of anybody with Mississippi connections who were in the two disaster areas.

"That is something that we are trying to find out and working on it," he said.

Mississippi military bases from Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi to Columbus Air Force Base have implemented security precautions.

"There is a battle staff meeting going on this morning. It's a group that discusses what the base is going to do and if the base is going to increase the protection level," said Airman First Class Amanda Mills in the office of Public Af-

fairs at Columbus Air Force Base. "We have increased security at the gate," Staff Sgt. Jim Moser in the office of Public Affairs said this morning.

According to Moser, the battle staff meeting is made up of squad commanders and groups of commanders.

"We are in defense position but haven't had orders to move into force protection," Moser said.

The base is waiting to receive instructions from a higher headquarters at Randolph Air Force Base.

"It's a chain of command and we go from there," Moser said.

A news briefing was scheduled at the Columbus base at noon today.

"I have talked with the air base, and we have established lines of communications," said Columbus Mayor Jeffrey Rupp. "I'm not as concerned about the city (being at-

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tacked) as I am the base ... (terrorists) would get more attention from hitting the air base."

"I'd be very surprised if the city was a target," Rupp said. "But the base seems to have things well in hand. I've offered them any assistance they may need from the city."

Rupp said he has ordered the city's American flags to be placed around town.

"With the air base here, I think we need to show our support until this is all over," he said. "I'd like to ask all Columbus citizens to put their flags out in support, as well."

City flags will be flown at half-staff.

Rupp said he returned to Columbus from Harrisburg, Pa., just yesterday and traveled through Washington, D.C.

"This is all just amazing," Rupp said.

The Meridian Naval Air Station is also taking precautionary mea-

sures.

"We've increased our security efforts and called in additional security, and our flight operations have stopped," said Susan Junkins in the office of public affairs.

Similar action was taking place at Naval Station Pascagoula, where all entrances were being closely watched, and at Keesler.

Lowndes County Supervisors called a news conference for 12:30 today to discuss the terrorism impact on the county.

Supervisor Leroy Brooks said he heard word that commercial fuel supplies may come under some sort of regulation and that the county is preparing to fill all vehicles.

Supervisor Tommy Southerland paid a visit to the E-911 and Emergency Management offices after learning of the terrorist bombings.

Southerland said the employees in the office were busy running about.

"I asked Larry Miller if they had any instructions or information and he said they do not have anything on a local level," he said.

But if there are any developments closer to home, Southerland said of the 911 office, "there is a plan and a plan of rescue in action. There is a plan for the base and locals."

"It's just terrible and one of the saddest things to happen," Southerland said.

Leroy Brooks who was watching the bombings as they unfolded this morning, said he was going to the 911 Emergency Management office later.

"We (supervisors) have not had an opportunity to come back together to take precautionary measures," he said.

Dispatch Staff Writers John Mott Coffey and Mack Spencer contributed to this report.

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Columbus air base alert is downgraded

Dispatch Staff Report

Columbus Air Force Base has downgraded its status to allow a return to normal work schedules but is maintaining tight security.

Base spokesmen issued a statement today announcing a switch to what is called Force Protection Condition Charlie.

Under Force Protection Charlie, base access remains limited to employees, residents on base and those needing to conduct official business.

Base spokesmen said that personnel driving to the base can expect — and should plan for — delays at the east gate, which is the only gate that remains open to the civilian world.

U.S. military bases went on high alert in the aftermath of Tuesday's terrorist attack in the northeastern part of the nation.

Columbus Air Force Base went into what is called Force Protection Delta and the facility was locked down shortly before noon Tuesday.

The base is the home of the 14th Flying Training Wing.

Base spokesmen said that, pending approval from higher authority, the Federal Aviation Administration may permit the 14th Flying Training Wing to resume its primary mission of training.

Base spokesmen said that facilities and services on the base will resume with limited business hours and that deliveries to activities will resume but will require escorts.

Those with questions may call the base public affairs department at (662) 434-7066 or the Family Support Center at (662) 434-3551.

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SAFB helps in relief effort

Blood, money donated for victims

Lynda Stringer

Times Record News

The spirit of giving is here long before Christmas.

It's the American spirit that is driving adults and kids alike to reach into their pockets to help the families of Tuesday's terrorism that shocked the nation.

"I felt like there was nothing we were doing and we needed to do something, they didn't need blood anymore," said Debbi Fleetwood, the wife of Sheppard Staff Sgt. Bill Fleetwood, who organized a penny drive at John Tower Elementary School.

The penny drive began Monday and will continue through Friday. The idea snowballed from there.

Fleetwood and Teresa DiSalvo, both military wives and stay-at-home-moms, were talking at a playgroup about what they could do. Fleetwood mentioned the penny drive and DiSalvo thought they could do the same thing on base.

"She ended up on the general's doorstep Friday night and he gave us permission," Fleetwood said.

When she rang his bell DiSalvo, the wife of Master Sgt. Matthew DiSalvo, never expected to actually speak with 82nd Training Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Michael Collings.

"My husband gave me permission to go to his house, but I thought I'd just leave a note. He came to the door himself and gave me permission right on the spot," DiSalvo said.

Collings said his motivation was the same as anyone's at this time: "The well-being of our country and how we can in some small way contribute as Team Sheppard a gesture of support," he said Tuesday.

Collings said if other Sheppard groups want to organize fundraisers they have his permission.

"I'm not going to stand in anybody's way that wants to ... help the relief of victims from the terrorist activities," Collings said.

With the base commander's blessing, DiSalvo and Fleetwood set about making plans.

Hobby Lobby didn't hesitate to help. They donated

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five-gallon buckets and the ribbon and straight pins the volunteers used to make red, white and blue lapel ribbons for the donors.

"I guess it's not only for country pride, but civic pride," manager Brandon Avenius said. "As Americans we need to do more things like that."

Six volunteers collected donations at the main gate and the commissary Saturday and Sunday. They handed out more than 550 ribbons.

"They were more than willing to give," Fleetwood said. "People were thanking us for doing it."

DiSalvo said being able to witness "the human desire to help our fellow Americans in this great time of crisis was an amazing experience."

The women presented a check for \$3,500 to the Wichita Falls chapter of the American Red Cross for the relief fund Tuesday afternoon.

"I wish it could have been more — we did what we could in a weekend," Fleetwood said.

The spirit of giving at Sheppard also overwhelmed Wichita Falls Red Cross workers who held a blood drive at Sheppard Friday.

So many showed up for the 366th Training Squadron-sponsored blood drive that had been scheduled before Tuesday's hijacked airliner attacks, more than 100 people had to be turned away.

"People pulled together in unity for one cause," said Staff Sgt. Duane Riggs, a 366 TRS instructor.

Two hundred people turned out for the blood drive and within 20 minutes they collected all the blood the mobile Red Cross unit could handle. The squadron turned away more than 100 people.

"There's not much I can do and this is one way I can help," blood donor 2nd Lt. Jay Caldwell said.

Staff Writer Lynda Stringer can be reached by calling (940) 720-3461 or (800) 627-1646 Ext. 461; or by e-mail at stringerl@wtr.com